

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

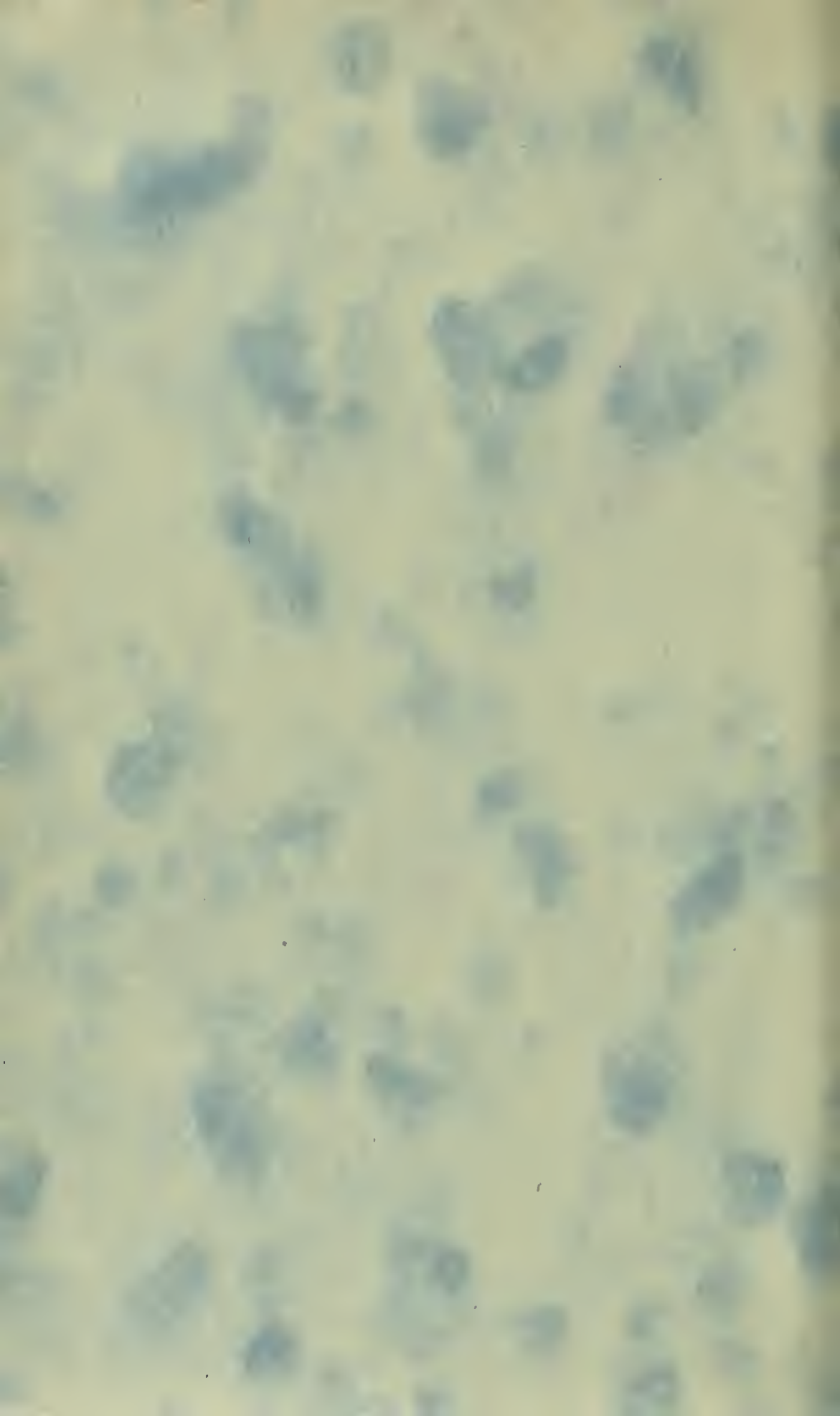
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1948



RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1948 ; during which year there have been considerable changes due to the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act.

I would like to put on record my appreciation of the help given me by Dr. Wilson, when he handed over at the beginning of the year, and also to thank Mr. Slater, and the other members of the Staff for their co-operation in my first year with the District.


This Report incorporates that of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. JOHNSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Rudge Farm House,
Froxfield, Marlborough.*



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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :
D. L. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :
S. L. THOMAS, M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	75,828
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	25
Population—Census 1931	...	...	...	...	14,292
Population mid-1948, as estimated by the Registrar-General	...	...	...	...	14,320
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,608
Number of new houses erected in 1948	...	...	...	...	45
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	10
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	35
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£99,355
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£410

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	160	172	332
Legitimate	150	161	311
Illegitimate	10	11	21
Still Births	2	3	5
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	...	...	23.2
Live Birth Rate for England & Wales	...	...	17.9
Number of Deaths from all causes	92	79	171
Crude Death Rate	...	...	11.9
Crude Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	10.8
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	4	2	6
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	18.1
Infantile Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	34.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The greatest number of notifications was again of measles, and schools at Everleigh, Upavon and Wootton Rivers were closed for short periods as a result: there were 153 notifications, all between the months of February and September, the peak month being July, with 62.

There were 32 notifications of Whooping Cough, generally distributed about the district: 11 occurred in June, and 10 in July.

18 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, mostly unrelated to one another. Everleigh school was closed as a precautionary measure when a case occurred in the School House: in February, as a result of two cases in Oare, the school population was examined and those with sore throats were excluded; no further cases occurred.

There were two notifications of Diphtheria, one subsequently being re-diagnosed. The other occurred in a boarder at a mixed day and boarding school: the child was removed to Isolation Hospital, and made a good recovery. The organism was not grown in the laboratory, but the case was treated as Diphtheria on clinical grounds.

Other notifications were as follows:—Pneumonia 8, Influenzal Pneumonia 1, Erysipelas 2, Cerebrospinal Fever 2 (1 military), Acute Poliomyelitis 1 (military), Puerperal Pyrexia 1 and Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

A Smallpox contact from *H.M.T. Asturias* was notified by the Port Health Authorities at Southampton and kept under surveillance for the necessary period.

A table showing the monthly incidence of Infectious Diseases appears at the end of this report.

TUBERCULOSIS

30 new cases were added to the Register, 20 Pulmonary and 10 Non-Pulmonary. There were 6 deaths, 5 from Pulmonary and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 6 other cases were removed from the Register, 4 having recovered, one being re-diagnosed, and one transferred to another District.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

A considerable number of immunisations and re-inforcements were done in the first half of 1948 before the responsibility passed to the County Council on July 5th under the National Health Service Act of 1946. Most of the schools were visited twice with a view to protecting those who had missed immunisation as infants, and to reinforcing the immunity of the others. General Practitioners continued to co-operate, particularly in immunising infants at home, and in their surgeries. In order to keep Diphtheria at its present low incidence, a high state of immunisation in the District must still be of importance to this Authority. I am glad to say that my duties with the County Council enable me to play an active part in this work.

The Immunisation state in the District as at 31st December, 1948 was as follows :—

Completed Immunisations		Child Population	Percentage Immunised
Under 5	Over 5		
584	2408	3429	87.2

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action had to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, which came into force on July 5th. Three cases of old people unable to give themselves proper care and attention were brought to my notice, and places were found for them in County Council Homes, into which they went voluntarily.

HOUSING

During the year 35 houses were completed by the Council, and 10 by Private Enterprise. The housing waiting list, however, is still considerable, and there are many bad cases of overcrowding. In order to assist the Committee concerned in their unenviable task of tenant selection, recommendations were made only in most urgent cases, where there were large families with young children. The needs of young married couples, who cannot muster many points under the points scheme have yet to be met.

The hutments at Hedge End and Kangaroo Corner, Ludgershall and those at Havering Lane, Milton, are nearing the end of their useful life, and moves have been made by this authority to re-house the occupants in permanent houses.

Where routine repairs to structural and sanitary defects have been required, the work has, in most cases, been carried out by the owners following verbal or written requests. In three instances Statutory Notices had to be served. The shortage of labour continues to make building contractors reluctant to undertake small jobs of this nature.

There still remain approximately 1700 houses to be inspected under the Rural Housing Survey, but once again very little has been done towards it, and without additional help it is impossible to make much progress. The completion of this survey is, in my opinion, most desirable, particularly for the help it would give in assessing future housing needs. A table of classifications to date is appended to this Report.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

All Movable Dwellings on sites licensed under Sec. 267 of the Public Health Act 1936 were inspected during the course of the year, and a watch kept for new sites coming into use without due authorisation. The living conditions in many of these dwellings are poor, and a recommendation was made to the Council that the power to license each individual dwelling be exercised in addition to the licensing of the site. It was considered that in this way pressure could be brought to bear on the occupiers to improve their standards of living, but the Council decided to take no further steps in the matter for the time being.

WATER SUPPLIES

There was little new work during the year, as most of the new schemes were in the hands of the Ministry. Samples were taken from the boreholes at Aughton and North Newnton, and from a supply at Alton Barnes, which would supply the needs of future Council houses for that village. Several samples were also taken from schools, the supply to the hutted camps at Milton and Ludgershall, and from wells suspected to be polluted, and, where necessary, action was taken to right the matter.

The above samples were in addition to the usual routine bacteriological samples submitted for analysis from Public supplies at Pewsey and Ludgershall, all of which were satisfactory.

A heavily polluted farm supply was investigated, the cause traced, and the necessary repairs done to render the supply fit.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Pewsey drainage and sewerage plant continued to work satisfactorily, and test baiting proved it to be free of rats. A small number of houses were converted from pail closets to water-borne sanitation, but the progress being made is slow, mainly owing to shortage of labour. It is hoped, in the new year to speed up this important work.

The sewer ditches in the outlying parishes have, with the exception of Netheravon, been kept clean. Again the shortage of labour is the difficulty, but in two cases this was overcome, and at Ludgershall the drains at Hedge End and Kangaroo Corner hutments, and the urinal in the village are cleaned daily.

At Netheravon, although the ditch is attended to weekly, there has been some trouble from blockages, partly due to children putting bricks and tins into the ditch, and partly due to its obsolescence. Similar difficulties have occurred at Upavon, where there is little fall, and the flow of waste water varies with the height of the river.

The only real solution of the problems created by these sewer ditches is the provision of a proper sewage system, and in the meantime every effort is being made to keep them as clean as possible.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse and Salvage collection has been carried out regularly throughout the year. As the "Karrier" refuse lorry had exceeded 100,000 miles, and was beginning to give trouble, an order for a new vehicle of the same make was placed.

In August the refuse tip caught fire through internal combustion, and it continues to burn. A new area on the same site had to be used, but it is still impossible to run a system of Controlled Tipping, as is desirable, unless an extra man be employed to work at the site. This man would be employed in keeping the tip in proper order, preventing unauthorised tipping, and in sorting salvage, which could thereby be increased. In addition he could act as relief on the Refuse Collection. It is difficult to get men to do this sort of work, but the problem is made easier if a permanent job is offered. This matter needs serious consideration by the Council, for the present dumping of refuse is most unsatisfactory, as well as being unsightly: distance from houses and the screening belt of trees are the only saving factors.

During the year 47 tons of material were salvaged, and sold for approximately £320, an increase of 6 tons of salvage collected, with a corresponding increase of £68 in revenue over the previous year. Although tins are still collected, the price of baled tins was too low to send this particular salvage away. No bones are collected. Two ten-cubic-yard refuse lorries and four men are employed on this work.

MILK SUPPLIES

During the year 5 new producers were registered for the wholesale production of milk; of these, 4 were re-registrations of existing premises taken over by new occupants. One dairy was licensed for the bottling of T.T. milk; there are now 2 dairies in the District holding dealers' licences for the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested."

Numerous visits were paid to cowsheds, dairies and milking parlours: work was carried out, where necessary, on verbal instructions, with the exception of one case, where a letter was sent. No legal notices were served.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered 1948	...	...	177
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered 1948	...	...	71

LEGAL ACTION

No legal action was taken during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS

Meat inspections at the Pewsey Slaughterhouse were continued, and meat condemned is shown in the table below.

A report was submitted to the Council about the unsatisfactory situation and inadequacy of the present slaughterhouse, which was never designed for the volume of work now undertaken. It was suggested that application be made to the Ministry of Health for permission to build an up-to-date slaughterhouse on the outskirts of the Town. Plans were submitted by the Surveyor, and 3 possible sites inspected by the Committee concerned, one being selected. A Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health visited the present premises during slaughtering, and was in complete agreement as to its unsuitability. Unfortunately permission to proceed further has not yet been forthcoming.

Six applications were received for re-licensing, for pig-killing only, of slaughterhouses closed during the war. These premises were inspected, but, in view of the fact that, in granting a licence, a limitation to pig-killing only cannot be imposed, only two were considered to be in the least suitable for re-opening, and then only after various alterations had been carried out to bring them up to the minimum standard. One applicant complied with these requirements, and a licence was granted.

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DISEASE IN SLAUGHTER ANIMALS

				Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	...	...	127	500	1047	1061	26
Number inspected	...	...	...	127	500	1047	1061	26
All Diseases except T.B.								
Whole carcasses condemned	...			—	2	3	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			39	61	5	255	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	...	...	...	30.7	12.6	0.76	21.6	7.7
T.B. only								
Whole carcasses condemned	...			—	9	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...			65	92	1	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	...	...	...	43.3	20.2	0.19	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

INSPECTIONS	No. of Inspections	No. of Defects	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Remedied by 3	Remedied by 4	Remedied after verbal notice
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	346	92	17	3	9	4	82
Slaughterhouses	400	1	1	—	1	—	—
Knackers' Yards	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared	164	12	—	—	—	—	11
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	142	17	1	—	—	—	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	58	3	1	—	—	—	2
Bakehouses	36	5	—	—	—	—	4
TOTALS	1154	130	20	3	10	4	118

Not classified above

Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	...	16
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	81
Unclassified visits and inspections, water sampling, drain testing, refuse collections etc.	...	...	...	...	...	880
						977

Total Number of Visits 2131

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Progress Report up to 31st December, 1948

Total No. of houses in district	Total No. to be Surveyed	Total No. of houses surveyed up to 31/12/48	1	2	3	4	5	Total Classified	Remarks
2901 under £20 R.V.									
357 over £20 R.V.	2901	1280	326	268	47	232	228	1280	There are 179 houses in between categories 4-5
550 W.D.									

Notes

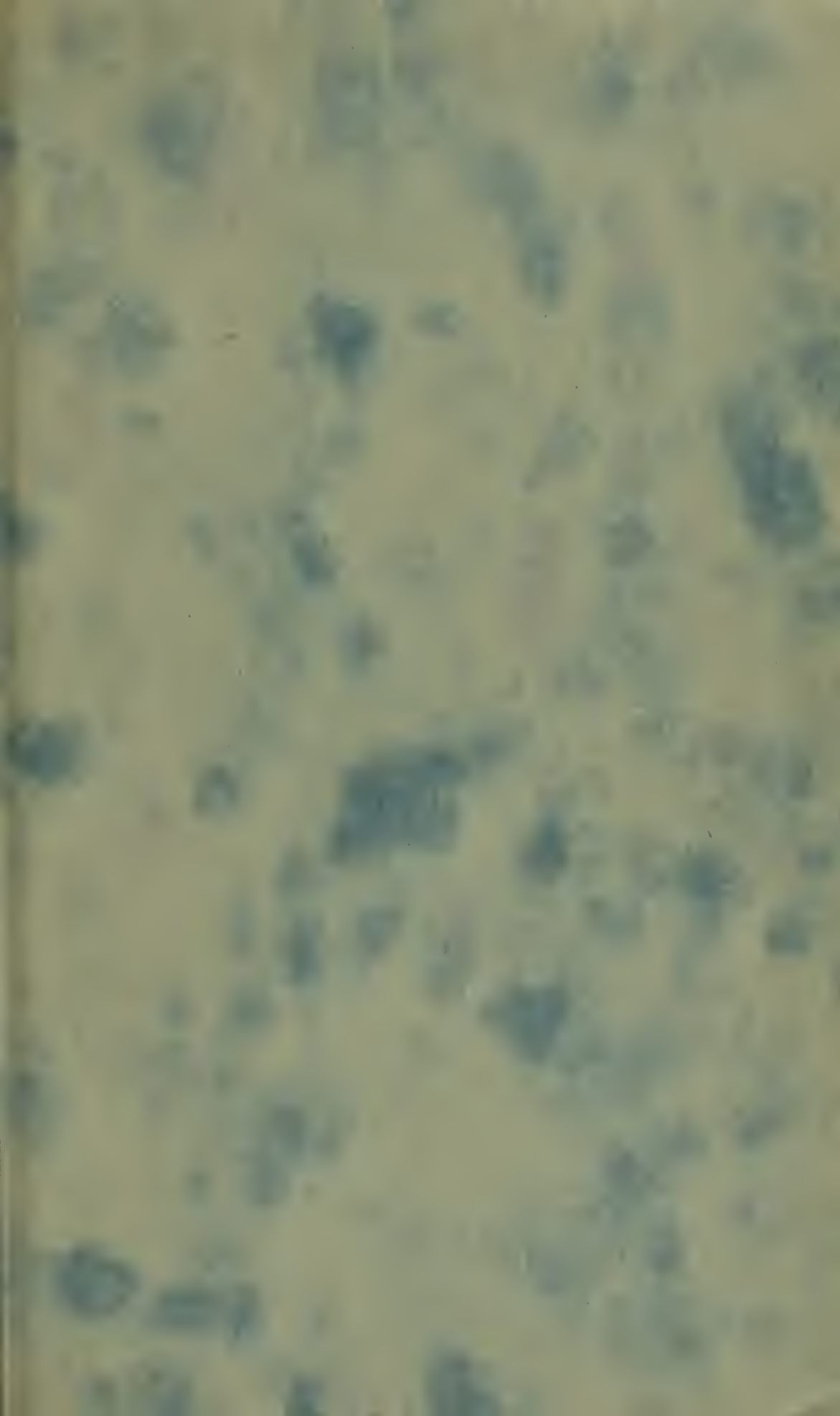
- Class 1. Satisfactory in all respects
 „ 2. Minor defects
 „ 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration, or improvement
 „ 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, or similar Act.
 „ 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

			JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5	5	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	1	—	18
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	9
Erysipelas	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Measles	...	...	—	2	13	17	23	7	62	22	7	—	—	—	153
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	2	1	—	1	11	10	5	2	—	—	—	32

CAUSES OF DEATH
AS RETURNED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL

			M	F	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	3	2	5
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	—	1
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	2	—	2
9	Influenza	...	—	—	—
10	Measles	...	—	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	...	—	—	—
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	—	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	...	—	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	2	—	2
15	Cancer of Breast	...	—	5	5
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	8	8	16
17	Diabetes	...	—	1	1
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	14	10	24
19	Heart Diseases	...	28	30	58
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	3	8	11
21	Bronchitis	...	1	2	3
22	Pneumonia	...	3	3	6
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	—	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	2	—	2
25	Diarrhoea—under 2 years	...	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	2	1	3
28	Nephritis	...	7	4	11
29	Puerperal and Post Abortional Sepsis	...	—	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	—	—	—
31	Premature Births	...	3	—	3
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...	1	1	2
33	Suicide	...	—	1	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	3	—	3
35	Other Violent Causes	...	5	—	5
36	All Other Causes	...	4	2	6
All Causes			92	79	171





F. JAY & SON
BEDWIN STREET
KALISOURY